



Tsi Nahò:ten Karihwanákere Nó:nen'k

PRESS RELEASE

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Policy for School Buses to be bolstered due to recent incidents

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 25, Onerahtókha/April 2023) The Daily Transportation Department of the Mohawk Council of Kahnawà:ke (MCK) wishes to inform the community that, due to increasing incidences on community school buses, several safety concerns have prompted an update to the Daily Transportation Policy.

The MCK is extremely concerned and supports the announcement made by the Kahnawà:ke Education Center and is committed to working closely on safer solutions.

Cases have been reported of students bringing objects onto buses that are considered dangerous, notably weapons. Two incidents recently occurred where students brought prohibited objects onto the bus, including BB and Paintball Guns. Another separate incident included a Laser Gun.

These items are very realistic and can cause physical harm. They can also be mistaken for higher-powered weapons, which could lead to a possibly drastic and devastating result. The recent cases were realistic enough to engage instant emergency protocol actions as a response involving the Kahnawake Peacekeepers.

The MCK will be updating its Daily Transportation Policy to include a harsh stance against weapons being carried onto community buses, regardless if they are considered lethal or not. Any object that is regarded as a weapon will result in more significant consequences, including immediate suspension of bus privileges. The safety of our children and drivers is of the utmost importance, and policy changes that address zero tolerance will ensure that security is maintained.

"We would like to ask that all parents and guardians be diligent regarding their children," said Daily Transportation Manager Spencer McComber. "Please speak to your children about the realities of the world today and the dangers actions like this pose to themselves and fellow students, and check your child's backpack regularly."

The MCK continues to work with the Kahnawake Education Center and Kahnawake Peacekeepers to monitor and promote school safety and awareness. For questions or concerns, please contact the Town Garage at **450-632-5825**.

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